

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03293 01 OF 02 050906Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 L-01 DHA-02 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 /040 W
-----050922Z 011995 /15

R 042014Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0339

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 3293

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: JOURNALIST ENRIQUE JARA COMMENTS ON HIS CAPTIVITY
AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

FOR ARA/USOAS AND ARA/ECA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3260

1. SUMMARY. JARA WAS RELEASED FROM DETENTION WITHOUT ANY CHARGES LODGED AGAINST HIM. DURING HIS CAPTIVITY HE DISCOVERED THAT "LA OPINION'S" PUBLISHER JACOBO TIMERMAN HAD KEPT CERTAIN CRUCIAL FACTS FROM HIS SENIOR STAFF WHICH HE HAD A MORAL OBLIGATION TO REVEAL. THESE INCLUDED THE OWNERSHIP OF THE NEWSPAPER AND FORMER ECONOMY MINISTER GELBARD'S UNDUE INFLUENCE OVER THE PAPER'S EDITORIAL POLICY. NEVETHELESS, JARA SEES TIMERMAN AS THE VICTIM OF ANTISEMITISM AND AN ATTEMPT TO THROTTLE THE FREE PRESS. JARA BELIEVES "LA OPINION'S" FAILURE IS IMMINENT. THE TIMERMAN FAMILY HAS DISMISSED JARA AS A RESULT OF JARA'S BREAKING WITH JACOBO. JARA IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHETHER HE WILL BE HIRED FOR A KEY JOB IN THE OAS HUMAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03293 01 OF 02 050906Z

RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE FEARS THE OAS COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE NOT MADE OF SOLID STUFF AND WILL NOT WISH TO HIRE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN DETAINED BY THE SECURITY FORCES OF A MEMBER STATE EVEN THOUGH THROUGH NO FAULT OF HIS OWN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, ENRIQUE JARA DISCUSSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE GENESIS AND CURRENT STATUS OF HIS CANDIDACY

FOR POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE SAID THAT DEPUTY PERMANENT US REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT WHITE, WHOM HE HAD FIRST MET DURING THE LATTER'S LAST VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES, EVIDENTLY HAD PLAYED AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN PRESENTING HIS NAME FOR CONSIDERATION. HE HADNOT SOUGHT THE JOB AND THE OFFER HAD COME AS A SURPRISE. SOME WEEKS AGO HE WAS CALLED TO WASHINGTON WHERE HE MET ORFILIA, WHITE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TO DISCUSS THE PROSPECT OF HIS TAKING THE JOB. BEFORE AGREING TO HIS CANDIDACY, JARA CONSULTED THE ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN AMBASSADORS TO THE OAS AND ADMIRAL MENDIA (WHO HE DESCRIBED AS THE UNOFFICIAL EYES AND EARS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON) TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE ANY OBJECTIONS PERCEIVED BY EITHER GOVERNMENT. AS NONE WERE EXPRESSED AND SOME OF THOSE CONSULTED EVEN SAID THEY VIEWED HIS CANDIDACY WITH SYMPATHY, HE THEN FILLED UT THE NECESSARY FORMS, INCLUDING INSURANCE PAPERS.

3. JARA SAID HE FELT SOMEWHAT DISCONCERTED BY ORFILA'S REMARKS, AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS FOLLOWING JARA'S ARREST WHICH GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ORFILA KNEW NOTHING ABOUT JARA'S CANDIDACY AND BORE NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER. JARA ALSO SAID HE COULD NOT HELP FEELING THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EVENTUALLY DISPOSED OF HIS NOMINATION (E.E. THEIR FINAL DECISION IN THIS MATTER) IN THE LIGHT OF HIS DETENTION AND SUBSEQUENT RELEASE (WITHOUT ANY CHARGES EVER HAVING BEEN LODGED AGAINST HIM BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES) WAS A SMALL TEST OF THE COMMISSION'S DEGREE OF COMMITMENT AND SINCERITY WITH RESPECT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. HE DID NOT HAVE A VERY HIGH OPINION OF THE OAS TO BEGIN WITH, NOR OF THE WAY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03293 01 OF 02 050906Z

DECISIONS WERE REACHED IN THAT INSTITUTION, AND HE FEARED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD NOW BACK AWAY FROM APPROVING HIS NOMINATION. NOW THAT HE HAD RESIGNED EFFECTIVE APR 29 FROM THE STAFF OF "LA OPINION" AT THE REQUEST OF THE TIMERMAN FAMILY, HE HAD A VERY REAL INTEREST IN TAKING THE OAS JOB AND HE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY OTHER PLANS REGARDING HIS FUTURE UNTIL THE COMMITTEE MET NEXT WEEK AND MADE ITS DECISION.

4. JARA ALSO DISCUSSED HIS IMPRISONMENT AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH THE COMMANDO GROUP THAT TOOK HIM FROM HIS HOME TOLD HIS WIFE THAT THEY WERE MONTONEROS AS THEY RIPPED OUT THE TELEPHONE WIRES. SHORTLY AFTER THE COMMANDO GROUP DEPARTED FROM TIMERMAN'SHOUSE JARA WAS BLINDFOLDED AND REMAINED THAT WAY FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HIS BLINDFOLD WAS NOT REMOVED UNTIL HE WAS TAKEN FROM HIS INITIAL PLACE OF CAPTIVITY TO LA PLATA (ABOUT AN HOUR'S DRIVE AWAY). HIS CAPTORS GAVE HIM NO FOOD OR WATER THE FIRST DAY AND A HALF. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS HELD DURING THIS INITIAL PERIOD. DURING THIS PERIOD HIS CAPTORS APPLIED ELECTRIC SHOCK TO SEVERAL PARTS OF HIS BODY WHILE INTERROGATING HIM. (NOTE: THIS IS THE

SINGLE MOST SENSITIVE ELEMENT OF HIS TESTIMONY AND WE PROMISED THAT IT WOULD BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.) THE QUESTIONS THEY ASKED OF HIM APPEARED TO BE DIVERSE, THEY CAME IN NO LOGICAL ORDER AND LENT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE INTERROGATORS WERE BASICALLY ON A FISHING EXPEDITION. NOT ALL THE QUESTIONS WERE RELATED TO THE GRAIVER OR WITH SUBVERSION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INTERROGATORS HAD SOME KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIS NOMINATION FOR THE OAS POST AND WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT.

5. JARA SAID THAT COL. CAMPS, THE CHIEF OF THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE, TOLD HIM, BOTH DURING HIS CAPTIVITY AND FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE, THAT THE POLICE HAD GONE OVER EVERY INCH OF HIS LIFE AND WERE CONVINCED THAT HE HAD A PERFECTLY "CLEAN" MORAL AND POLITICAL RECORD. CAMPS EVEN APOLOGIZED FOR THE TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED, STATING THAT THE POLICE REGRETTED HAVING TO USE SUCH METHODS, BUT THEY WERE A NECESSARY EVIL. THERE WAS A WAR ON, AND SOMETIME ERRORS WERE COMMITTED IN WARTIME.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUENOS 03293 01 OF 02 050906Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03293 02 OF 02 042204Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
SP-02 L-01 DHA-02 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 /040 W
-----050921Z 003339 /15

R 042014Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0340

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 3293

LIMDIS

WERE COMMITTED IN WARTIME. IN JARA'S CASE THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN DETAINED BY ERROR, AND CAMPS WAS SORRY. IF THERE WERE ANYTHING HE COULD DO FOR JARA TO RECTIFY MATTERS, JARA SHOULD JUST LET HIM KNOW. JARA FURTHER STATED THAT WHILE HE HAD SUFFERED DURING HIS CAPTIVITY, HE VIEWED THE EXPERIENCE AS THE SUPREME TEST OF HIS LIFE AND

HE WAS SATISFIED THAT HE HAD COME THROUGH HIS ORDEAL WITHOUT HAVING BETRAYED HIS IDEALS OR HIS PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES.

6. JARA REGRETTED HE COULD NOT SAY THE SAME FOR TIMERMAN. JARA CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BROKEN DEFINITIVELY WITH TIMERMAN. NOT ONLY HAD TIMERMAN NEVER TOLD HIM ABOUT GRAIVER'S INTERESTS IN "LA OPINION," BUT TIMERMAN HAD DOWNRIGHT LIED WHEN JARA QUESTIONED HIM SOMETIME IN THE PAST ABOUT RUMORS THEN CIRCULATING TO THAT EFFECT. DURING ONE OF THE SEVERAL CROSSEXAMINATION SESSIONS IN WHICH TIMERMAN, JARA, CASASBELLAS AND MRS. GRAIVER WERE COMPELLED TO PARTICIPATE, TIMERMAN ADMITTED THE GRAIVER INTEREST IN THE ENTERPRISE WHEN GRAIVER'S WIDOW CONFRONTED HIM WITH HER SHARES IN HAND. EVEN ASSUMING THAT GRAIVER DID HAVE MONTONERO CONNECTIONS, A QUESTION ABOUT WHICH JARA SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION AT ALL TO CONTRIBUTE, HE DOUBTS THAT TIMERMAN WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT. IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO HIM THAT TIMERMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03293 02 OF 02 042204Z

WOULD KNOWINGLY LINK UP WITH SOMEBODY WHO HAD MONTONERO TIES, GIVEN TIMERMAN'S CLEARCUT POSITION AGAINST TERRORISM OF ANY POLITICAL TRIBE. HOWEVER, TIMERMAN HAD A MORAL OBLIGATION TO LEVELWITH HIS SENIOR STAFF ABOUT SUCH A CRITICAL FACTOR AS THE OWNERSHIP OF THE NEWSPAPER AND TIMERMAN HAD LIED BY MAINTAINING THAT THE ENTERPRISE WAS WHOLLY OWNED BY HIS FAMILY. THIS POINT WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE BECAUSE EACH MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF HAD ASSUMED A GREAT PERSONAL RISK WHEN THEY AGREED TO JOIN TIMERMAN IN THE NOBLE VENTURE OF PRINTING A TRULY FREE AND INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF A QUALITY THERETOFORE UNKNOWN IN ARGENTINA. EVEN WORSE, JARA WAS CONVINCED THAT TIMERMAN HAD BETRAYED THE PAPER'S IDEALS BY ACCEPTING BRIBES FROM GELBARD IN ORDER TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC WITH REGARD TO THE ALUAR SCANDAL. (JARA DENIED THAT THIS WAS COMMON PRACTICE AMONG ARGENTINE NEWSPAPERS.) JARA SAID HE FELT DOUBLY BETRAYED ON THIS POINT BECAUSE HE HAD EXPLICITLY MADE THE POINT TO TIMERMAN WHEN HE JOINED THE PAPER THAT "LA OPINION" HAD TO MAINTAIN A SPECIALLY HIGH STANDARD IN THIS REGARD IF IT WERE TO REMAIN FREE, AND TIMERMAN HAD SAID AT THE TIME THAT HE WAS IN TOTAL AGREEMENT. MOST DESPICABLE OF ALL, JARA SAID, WAS TIMERMAN'S ATTEMPT DURING HIS INTERROGATION TO SLOUGH OFF RESPONSIBILITY FOR "LA OPINION'S" EDITORIAL LINE TO OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE STAFF. TIMERMAN, FOR EXAMPLE, CALLED CASASBELLAS A MARXIST, WHICH JARA DENIED.

7. JARA SUSPECTED THAT TIMERMAN HAD RECEIVED THE SAME KIND OF TREATMENT WHICH HE HAD SUFFERED. HE OVERHEARD THE GUARDS YELLING EPITHETS OF "DIRTY JEW" AT TIMERMAN. AT

ONE POINT TIMERMAN WAS ASKED WHETHER HE AND GELBARD WERE MEMBERS OF THE SAME RELIGIOUS SECT. TIMERMAN'S RESPONSE THAT HE WAS A PRACTICING JEW WHEREAS GELBARD LIVED OUTSIDE HIS FAITH DID NOT SEEM TO PLEASE THE GUARDS, WHO EVIDENTLY WERE SEARCHING FOR PROOF OF SOME "SINARCHIC PLOT" AFOOT. JARA BELIEVED THAT THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE EVENTUAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 03293 02 OF 02 042204Z

CHARGES AGAINST TIMERMAN WOULD BE: (A) DEFRAUDING GRAIVER OF HIS SHARES; (B) ACCEPTING BRIBES FROM GELBARD; AND (C) SUBVERSIVE CONNECTIONS--IF THE INVESTIGATORS CAN GARNER SUFFICIENT PROOF THAT GRAIVER INDEED WAS INVOLVED WITH TERRORISTS. JARA HAD NO DOUBT THAT "LA OPINION" WOULD FOLD BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT MONTH ON ACCOUNT OF THE FINANCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAINS IT WAS UNDERGOING. ADVERTISING ALREADY HAD FALLEN OFF SHARPLY AND THE STAFF WAS QUITTING. JARA AGREED WITH OUT OBSERVATION THAT THE OUTSIDE WORLD WOULD VIEW THE BANKRUPTCY OF "LA OPINION" AS PROOF THAT TIMERMAN HAD BEEN THE VICTIM OF ANTISEMITISM AND A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT AGAINST FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, AND IN JARA'S VIEW SUCH A AN INTERPRETATION WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

8. NEVERTHELESS, HE REGRETTED HAVING GIVEN A RECENT INTERVIEW TO A URUGUAYAN NEWSPAPER. HE WAS INTERVIEWED IN A WEAK MOMENT, HAVING JUST BEEN RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY, AND HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL DEFENSES WERE DOWN. THE PAPER, HE LATER DISCOVERED, WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN DOING A HATCHET JOB ON TIMERMAN, QUOTING ONLY JARA'S CRITICAL COMMENTS.

9. JARA WAS ELOQUENT IN HIS STATEMENT THAT HE NOW HAD BECOME AN INSTANT EXPERT IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT EXPERIENCE. HAVING SURVIVED THE AUTO-DA-FE PREPARED FOR HIM BY THE ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES, HE REITERATED, IT WOULD BE IRONIC IF HE WERE TURNED DOWN FOR THE OAS POST AS A RESULT OF HIS ARREST. IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, IT WOULD TEND TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE HYPOCRISY OF THE OAS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NO CHARGES HAD BEEN LODGED AGAINST HIM AND THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RELEASED HAD THERE BEEN THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF SUSPICION AGAINST HIM. HE FELT HIS FAITH IN HUMANITY WOULD SUFFER A SERIOUS REVERSE IF IT TURNED OUT THAT HE COULD NOT FIND ANY JOB BECAUSE OF THE UNJUST DETENTION HE HAD SUFFERED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUENOS 03293 02 OF 02 042204Z

10. COMMENT: WE WERE PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TALK WITH JARA AND WERE IMPRESSED BY HIS CANDOR. HIS
INTERVIEW WITH THE URUGUAYAN JOURNAL LENT ITSELF TO THE
POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION THAT HIS CAPTORS HAD SOMEHOW PER-
SUADED HIM TO TURN AGAINST TIMERMANN PUBLICLY AND ATTACK
HIM GRATUITOUSLY, DISHONESTLY AND UNFAIRLY. WE THINK JARA
GAVE A SATISFACTORY ACCOUNTING AND EXPLANATION OF HIS
CHANGED VIEWS REGARDING TIMERMANN IN HIS COVERSATION WITH
US, ALTHOUGH WE RESERVE JUDGMENT ON SOME OF THE JUDGMENTS HE
MADE. ON THE BASIS OF THIS LIMITED OBSERVATION, WE WOULD
SAY HE CAME THROUGH AS A MAN OF MORAL INTEGRITY AND STRONG
CHARACTER.

HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMPLOYMENT, PRISONERS RELEASE, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, JOURNALISTS, NEWSPAPERS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS03293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770157-1034
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770597/aaaadfoq.tel
Line Count: 291
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57ba309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 BUENOS AIRES 3260
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2648811
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNALIST ENRIQUE JARA COMMENTS ON HIS CAPTIVITY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR ARA/USOAS AND ARA/ECA
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, AR, OAS, HRC, (JARA, ENRIQUE), (TIMERMAN, JACOB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57ba309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009